S.F. CHRONICLE – 3/15/68

← Jacobs

A roadblock to Cuba was claimed by (from left) Stuart McRae, Jack Bloom, Karen Wald, Connie Kurz and Harold Jacobs.

# A 'Kidnaping' on Road to Cuba

Six young Castro sympathizers from the Bay Area yesterday accused the Mexican authorities, in collusion with the United States Government, of kidnaping them on their way to Cuba.

They described a "harrowing," 20-hour car drive from Mexico City to the Texas border under armed guard.

They said their six abductors claimed to be Mexican immigration officers — but they kept getting lost.

### RETURN

Five of the six travelers returned to San Francisco yesterday and promptly held a press conference at the Sheraton-Palace. They claimed to be either journalists or graduate students with valid passports and tourist visas.

The group included two active members of the militant Students for a Democratic Society: UC Berkeley student Karen Wald, 24 and Connie Kurz, 24, a graduate student at San Jose State College.

Jack Bloom, 25, and Harold Jacobs, 26, are graduate students at UC Berkeley, and Stuart McRae, 24, is editor of the magazine Resist.

### GIRL

Another girl, Barbara Cieciorka, 25, was not at the press conference. Both she and Miss Wald write for The Movement newspaper.

The six claimed to have been abducted from the Mexico City Airport as they were checking in for a flight to Cuba, where they planned to stay three weeks.

"One of them flashed a card at me, grabbed my arm and threw me in a car," said Miss Wald, petite and pretty in an off-the-shoulder dress.

### PARTY

She said the party was piled into two unmarked station wagons.

"The men made clear we were their prisoners but refused to say why we were being held," she said. "They just said they were following orders."

She said the cars stopped twice at gas station cafes and then split up near border, one going to the Reynosa-McAllen border towns and the other to Matamoros-Brownsville.

"The American border officials were expecting us," went on Miss Wald, "although the Mexican officials told us they were not deporting us."

The six yesterday sent off a strong letter of protest to the Mexican Consulate-General here and announced they would try once more to reach Cuba.

"We will not be frightened into remaining home by gangster tactics," said Miss Wald forcefully.